



Office of the Administrator

DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

**TO:** White House Cabinet Affairs Communications

**FROM:** GSA Communications Team

**DATE:** February 8, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Communications Update

**Inquiries**

Outlet	Inquiry	Date	Status
Mother Jones	Trump property in S.C. for FEMA/disaster	2/2	Hold
FCW	Follow-up re: cloud.gov/FedRAMP announcement	2/3	Closed
Gov Exec	Comment on Senator's pursuing IG action	2/3	Open
FedTimes	Innovation and "failing" in gov	2/3	Open
WSJ	What Happens to Presidential Gifts?	2/6	Open
Gov Exec	OPO Lease Status Update	2/6	Open
FCW	Fed100 Profile	2/6	Open
ProPublica	OPO/hotel – foreign gov occupancy numbers	2/6	Open
ProPublica	OPO comment on January 11 <sup>th</sup> Release	2/6	Open
WSJ	Vornado Lease Research	2/6	Open
NPR	OPO Lease	2/7	Open
Gov Exec	OPO Lease Transfer	2/7	Open
FCW	18F Hiring	2/7	Open
Detroit News	Time Capsule @ Patrick McNamara building	2/7	Closed
Building Green	Fitwel	2/7	Open
NextGov	CX Summit Speaking Engagement	2/7	Closed
LA Times	OPO Update	2/7	Open
Washington Post	FBI Building redevelopment in downtown DC	2/8	Open
SF Chronicle	Silicon Valley professionals involved in politics	2/8	Open
The Hill	Presidential Innovation Fellow Program	2/8	Open

Washington Post	Gov payments to Trump Org. rental properties	2/8	Open
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### **Top Stories**

- [Real Estate: Dems say GSA still hasn't decided whether Trump is violating lease \(CNN Money\)](#)
- [Real Estate: Donald Trump Jr. Takes Over D.C. Hotel Near White House \(Fox Business\)](#)
- [Real Estate: Donald J. Trump Jr. Takes The Reins Of Old Post Office Hotel \(The DCist\)](#)
- [Real Estate: Sugar Grove deed recorded \(The Inter Mountain Times\)](#)
- [Real Estate: Feds File Motion to Dismiss Lawsuit Over Plum Island Sale \(East End Beacon\)](#)
- [Acquisition: 3 takeaways from an anxious GSA roundtable with industry \(FedTimes\)](#)

### **Press Release Activity**

- N/A

### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Tomorrow, the National Park Service – in conjunction with GSA – will reopen the clock tower at the Old Post Office.
- Ashley Mahan – a member of the GSA FedRAMP team – has been selected as a finalist for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Women in Technology Leadership Awards. The program is designed to honor female professionals who “bring unique vision and talent to the [technology] industry.”



## DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

**TO:** White House Cabinet Affairs Communications**FROM:** GSA Communications Team**DATE:** February 16, 2017**SUBJECT:** Communications Update**Inquiries**

Outlet	Inquiry	Date	Status
WSJ	What Happens to Presidential Gifts?	2/6	Closed
FCW	Fed100 Profile	2/6	Closed
FCW	18F Hiring	2/7	Open
Washington Post	FBI Building redevelopment in downtown DC	2/8	Open
Washington Post	Gov payments to Trump Org. rental properties	2/8	Open
WBJ	Cotton Annex	2/9	Hold
WSJ	WH Military Lease @Trump Tower	2/10	Open
NYT	Interview on Datasets	2/13	Open
Gov Tech	“Disruptive” ideas in fed procurement	2/14	Open
CNN	Update on Secret Service space at Trump Tower	2/14	Open
NYT	GSA properties being leased/used as hotels	2/14	Open
Center for Public Integrity	Trump PTT report detailing contributions with GSA	2/14	Open
WSJ	Vornado leases with gov and “possible conflicts”	2/14	Open
GovLoop	Cloud Computing Guide	2/15	Hold
ECT News Network	HTTPS support to agencies	2/15	Open
FAA	Status of Presidential and Vice Presidential Portraits	2/15	Closed
LA Daily News	James Corwin Federal Building @ Van Nuys Center	2/15	Closed
Politico	Presidential Appointee Training Program Acquisition	2/16	Closed – Referred to EOP
Washington Post	Status of presidential portraits in federal buildings	2/16	Open

### **Top Stories**

- [Real Estate: Why Hasn't the Government Gone After Trump for His \\$180 Million Breach of Contract? \(Rolling Stone\)](#)
- [Real Estate: Possible FBI Headquarters Traffic Concern Greenbelt Residents \(AFRO\)](#)
- [Real Estate: Denver Federal Center's Downing Reservoir restoration set to be finished in May \(The Denver Post\)](#)
- [Real Estate: Federal courts move in as La Plata County Courthouse construction wraps up \(The Durango Herald\)](#)

### **Press Release Activity**

- N/A

### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- GSA launched the FedRAMP Tailored program designed to streamline the procurement process for low-impact cloud applications. Agencies will have until March 17<sup>th</sup> to provide comment on the program.



## DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

**TO:** White House Cabinet Affairs Communications**FROM:** GSA Communications Team**DATE:** February 17, 2017**SUBJECT:** Communications Update**Inquiries**

Outlet	Inquiry	Date	Status
FCW	18F Hiring	2/7	Open
Washington Post	FBI Building redevelopment in downtown DC	2/8	Open
Washington Post	Gov payments to Trump Org. rental properties	2/8	Open
WBJ	Cotton Annex	2/9	Hold
WSJ	WH Military Lease @Trump Tower	2/10	Open
NYT	Interview on Datasets	2/13	Open
Gov Tech	“Disruptive” ideas in fed procurement	2/14	Open
CNN	Update on Secret Service space at Trump Tower	2/14	Open
NYT	GSA properties being leased/used as hotels	2/14	Closed
Center for Public Integrity	Trump PTT report detailing contributions with GSA	2/14	Closed
WSJ	Vornado leases with gov and “possible conflicts”	2/14	Hold
GovLoop	Cloud Computing Guide	2/15	Hold
ECT News Network	HTTPS support to agencies	2/15	Open
Washington Post	Status of presidential portraits in federal buildings	2/16	Open
Fed Tech Insider	Asked for speech from 2/16 ATARC event	2/17	Open
Qtsdatacenters	Inquiry on FedRamp Tailored	2/17	Open
Politico	Transition team disclosure to GSA	2/17	Closed
Bloomberg	Transition team disclosure to GSA	2/17	Closed

### **Top Stories**

- [Real Estate: An FBI facility in Greenbelt would need 2,400 more parking spaces than initially expected \(The Diamondback\)](#)
- [Real Estate: MIT outlines early plan for 'once-in-a-generation' Volpe site development \(Washington Business Journal\)](#)
- [IT/Technology: GSA Security Evaluation Finds Some Deficiencies in FISMA Domains \(Meritalk\)](#)

### **Press Release Activity**

- N/A

### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- GSA is preparing to announce the award of an HPE Software Solutions package designed to provide agencies with the authority to leverage government buying power to purchase software licenses.



## DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

**TO:** White House Cabinet Affairs Communications  
**FROM:** GSA Communications Team  
**DATE:** February 28, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** Communications Update

**Inquiries**

Outlet	Inquiry	Date	Status
Washington Post	FBI Building redevelopment in downtown DC	2/8	Open
Gov Tech	“Disruptive” ideas in fed procurement	2/14	Open
Fed Tech Insider	Asked for speech from 2/16 ATARC event	2/17	Closed
Qtsdatacenters	Inquiry on FedRamp Tailored	2/17	Open
disabled Magazine	Interview Request on Professionals w/disabilities	2/21	Open
PBS NewsHour	Design of Ports of Entry	2/23	Hold
Bloomberg	Number of DOD buildings in DC	2/23	Open
Ctr. For Public Integrity	Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Rule	2/27	Open
FedScoop	Interview Request of Hillary Hartley for Top 50 Women in Technology	2/27	Closed
InnoNation Podcast	Impact/Benefits of Digital Analytics Program	2/27	Open
Baltimore Sun	Timeline of FBI Consolidation	2/27	Open
MeriTalk	Comment on Cong. Statements re: 18F OIG Report	2/28	Open
Atlas Obscura	GSA Fine Arts Program Follow-up	2/28	Open
State & Federal Communications	Copy of Transition Report	2/28	Closed

**Top Stories**

- [Transition: OMB, VA Turn to Experienced Executives to Hold Down the Fort \(Federal News Radio\)](#)
- [Acquisition: GSA, HPE Ink Government-Wide Software Agreement; Mary Davie Comments \(ExecutiveBiz\)](#)
- [IT/Technology: Congress Wants More, Better Federal Cyber Workers Despite Hiring Freeze \(Federal News Radio\)](#)
- [18F: The Empire Strikes Back \(FCW\)](#)

- [18F: Why Federal IT Will Never Be Secure \(Lawfare\)](#)

#### **Press Release Activity**

- 3/7: GSA and FBI will jointly commemorate the opening of a new FBI field office in Boston. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will feature FBI Director James Comey and Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker.

#### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- (b) (6), a contract specialist in the Federal Acquisition Service, will be attending the Joint Session of Congress as a guest of Congressman Steny Hoyer.
- *MeriTalk* – a blog focused on government IT issues – has contacted several members of Congress seeking comment on last week’s 18F Office of Inspector General Report. We believe the inquiries were designed to provoke an additional GSA response. We are working in conjunction with the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs to resolve the matter.



Office of the Administrator

DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

**TO:** White House Cabinet Affairs Communications  
**FROM:** GSA Communications Team  
**DATE:** March 1, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** Communications Update

**Inquiries**

Outlet	Inquiry	Date	Status
Washington Post	FBI Building redevelopment in downtown DC	2/8	Open
Gov Tech	“Disruptive” ideas in fed procurement	2/14	Open
Qtsdatacenters	Inquiry on FedRamp Tailored	2/17	Open
disabled Magazine	Interview Request on Professionals w/disabilities	2/21	Open
PBS NewsHour	Design of Ports of Entry	2/23	Hold
Bloomberg	Number of DOD buildings in DC	2/23	Open
Ctr. For Public Integrity	Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Rule	2/27	Open
InnoNation Podcast	Impact/Benefits of Digital Analytics Program	2/27	Open
Baltimore Sun	Timeline of FBI Consolidation	2/27	Open
MeriTalk	Comment on Cong. Statements re: 18F OIG Report	2/28	Open
Atlas Obscura	GSA Fine Arts Program Follow-up	2/28	Open
Police Fleet Mgr. Magazine	Federal Motor Vehicle Manager Magazine	3/1	Open
Architect Magazine	Contractor Diversity and Inclusion	3/1	Open
NY Times	Justifications and Approvals on FBO.gov	3/1	Closed
Fed Tech Magazine	Tech to enhance citizen engagement	3/1	Open
Law360	Comment on 18F IG Report	3/1	Open
Politico	Pres. Appointee Orientation Program	3/1	Open

**Top Stories**

- [Real Estate: Washington County Backs Canal Office Move to Williamsport \(Herald Mail Media\)](#)

- [Real Estate: What Dayton Building Was Called ‘The Grecian Lady’? \(Dayton Daily News\)](#)
- [Acquisition: A Door Opens for Acquisition Reform \(Signal Magazine\)](#)

#### **Press Release Activity**

- 3/7: GSA and FBI will jointly commemorate the opening of a new FBI field office in Boston. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will feature FBI Director James Comey and Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker.

#### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- In March, GSA intends to rollout a new authentication platform called Login.gov. The system is a single service across federal agencies designed to streamline and secure public access to government-run websites. GSA Communications is currently working with program staff to develop content for the upcoming release.



## DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

**TO:** White House Cabinet Affairs Communications  
**FROM:** GSA Communications Team  
**DATE:** March 21, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** Communications Update

**Inquiries**

Outlet	Inquiry	Date	Status
Ctr. For Public Integrity	Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Rule	2/27	Hold
FedNewsRadio	Interview Request: Dave Harrity	3/7	Open
Threatpost	Eric Mill and GitHub	3/8	Open
NASCIO	Interview request w/Eric Mill	3/8	Open
Science Careers	Inquiry on data.gov accessibility and WCAG 2.0	3/9	Closed
Government Product News	Resources for buying off GSA schedules	3/9	Open
NPR	Interview: Norm Dong - GSA oversight of buildings/OPO	3/9	Hold
Govt Matters/ABC	Interview with Beth Angerman	3/10	Open
DCist	Cotton Annex Bid	3/13	Open
CIO Review Mag.	Tech Transformation Article	3/15	Open
Washington Examiner	GSA "opinion" on OPO lease	3/17	Open
Next Gov	Interview w/ Navin Vembar	3/17	Open
Gov Matters	Interview w/Dominic Sale	3/17	Open
Bloomberg	Uber Reimbursements	3/20	Closed
Gov Exec	Federal Business Cards	3/20	Open
Time	Following a solicitation on FBO.gov	3/21	Closed

**Top Stories**

- [Inspector General: Government watchdog holds off on probe of Trump hotel lease \(CNN\)](#)
- [Real Estate: NEW COURTHOUSE EMBRACES SIMPLICITY \(American Society of Civil Engineers\)](#)

- [Acquisition: Coalition to Offer Recommendations for GSA's Procurement Operations in Light of Trump's Reorg Order \(ExecBiz\)](#)
- [Acquisition: GAO: Defense contracting down, civilian agencies steady over 5 years \(FedTimes\)](#)
- [Policy: MORE FEDS TELEWORK THAN EVER DESPITE MANAGERS' RESISTANCE \(NextGov\)](#)

#### **Press Release Activity**

- N/A

#### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Last evening, CNN posted an article on GSA's alleged failure to provide Congress with documents pertaining to the Old Post Office. CNN indicated Jake Tapper would be covering these false allegations this evening during a segment entitled "Conflicts of Interest."
- We received word that *Washington Post* reporter Jonathan O'Connell will be appearing tomorrow NPR tomorrow to discuss the FBI consolidation project. Mr. O'Connell believes GSA postponed the FBI site announcement because President Trump is about to nominate an Administrator.



## DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

**TO:** White House Cabinet Affairs Communications  
**FROM:** GSA Communications Team  
**DATE:** March 23, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** Communications Update

**Inquiries**

Outlet	Inquiry	Date	Status
Ctr. For Public Integrity	Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Rule	2/27	Hold
FedNewsRadio	Interview Request: Dave Harrity	3/7	Open
Threatpost	Eric Mill and GitHub	3/8	Open
NASCIO	Interview request w/Eric Mill	3/8	Open
Government Product News	Resources for buying off GSA schedules	3/9	Open
NPR	Interview: Norm Dong - GSA oversight of buildings/OPO	3/9	Hold
Govt Matters/ABC	Interview with Beth Angerman	3/10	Open
DCist	Cotton Annex Bid	3/13	Open
CIO Review Mag.	Tech Transformation Article	3/15	Open
Washington Examiner	GSA "opinion" on OPO lease	3/17	Open
Next Gov	Interview w/ Navin Vembar	3/17	Open
Gov Matters	Interview w/Dominic Sale	3/17	Open
Gov Exec	Federal Business Cards	3/20	Open
Washington Biz Journal	Data filed with GSA re: OPO	3/22	Open

**Top Stories**

- [Acquisition: FAS aims to refresh Multiple Award Schedules in April \(FedTimes\)](#)
- [Real Estate: Redeveloper sought for State Street's historic Century & Consumers Buildings \(Curbed Chicago\)](#)
- [Policy: Federal telework has 'some barriers' to success, GAO says \(FedScoop\)](#)
- [Policy: Telework still faces managerial resistance \(FCW\)](#)

**Press Release Activity**

- N/A

**Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- N/A



## DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

**TO:** White House Cabinet Affairs Communications**FROM:** GSA Communications Team**DATE:** March 24, 2017**SUBJECT:** Communications Update**Inquiries**

Outlet	Inquiry	Date	Status
Ctr. For Public Integrity	Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Rule	2/27	Hold
FedNewsRadio	Interview Request: Dave Harrity	3/7	Open
Threatpost	Eric Mill and GitHub	3/8	Open
NASCIO	Interview request w/Eric Mill	3/8	Open
Government Product News	Resources for buying off GSA schedules	3/9	Open
DCist	Cotton Annex Bid	3/13	Open
CIO Review Mag.	Tech Transformation Article	3/15	Open
Washington Examiner	GSA “opinion” on OPO lease	3/17	Open
Next Gov	Interview w/ Navin Vembar	3/17	Open
Gov Matters	Interview w/Dominic Sale	3/17	Open
Gov Exec	Federal Business Cards	3/20	Closed
Washington Biz Journal	Data filed with GSA re: OPO	3/22	Closed
ESPN	B-Roll of clock at OPO	3/23	Closed
GovLoop	DevOps in the Public Sector	3/23	Open
FedScoop	Interview Request – IT Modernization Summit	3/23	Open
Bloomberg	Regulatory Freeze and Federal Register	3/23	Open
Flight Global	2017 CSV Document	3/23	Open
Bloomberg	OPO	3/23	Closed

Buzzfeed	OPO	3/23	Closed
NPR	OPO	3/23	Closed
Politico	OPO	3/23	Closed
Daily Beast	OPO	3/24	Closed
ProPublica	Congressional Correspondence Policy	3/24	Closed
FedNewsRadio	Panel Interview: Automatic Network Security	3/24	Open

### **Top Stories**

- [Federal agency rules Trump's D.C. hotel lease is in 'full compliance' \(Washington Post\)](#)
- [Trump Hotel in Washington Does Not Violate Lease, U.S. Says \(New York Times\)](#)
- [GSA Says Trump D.C. Hotel Lease Is Valid, Despite Ban On Elected Officials \(NPR\)](#)
- [Feds OK Trump's Washington hotel lease, despite lease bar on government officials involvement \(WashingtonTimes\)](#)
- [Trump Hotel in DC not in violation of government lease, GSA says \(ABC\)](#)
- [Trump Washington Hotel Not Violating Lease, Government Says \(Bloomberg\)](#)
- [GSA: Trump's Presidency Does Not Violate His DC Hotel Lease \(The Daily Caller\)](#)
- [GSA Rules Trump's DC Hotel Lease Is In 'Full Compliance' \(NBC\)](#)
- [Trump's Washington hotel poses no conflict of interest, agency finds \(Reuters\)](#)
- [GSA Approval Of Trump Old Post Office Lease Whitewashes An Illegal Arrangement \(Forbes\)](#)
- [Changes to lease mean Trump doesn't have a conflict at his Washington hotel, agency rules \(LA Times\)](#)
- [Feds approve deal to insulate Trump from Post Office hotel \(Politico\)](#)
- [Government Lets Trump Off The Hook For His Washington Hotel Conflict Of Interest \(HuffPost\)](#)
- [Feds: Trump Hotel in D.C. Doesn't Violate Government Lease \(4 Washington\)](#)
- [GSA Says Trump Organization Is in Compliance With Hotel Lease \(Washingtonian\)](#)
- [Acquisition: GSA looks to streamline cyber buying \(FCW\)](#)
- [Inspector General: Former GSA Official And Husband Plead Guilty In Nepotism Scheme \(Alexandria News\)](#)
- [Real Estate: How to Drive Deep Energy Savings From the Nation's Largest Property Owner \(GTM Research\)](#)

### **Press Release Activity**

- N/A

### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- GSA announced on Thursday that the Old Post Office, LLC. is in full compliance with the terms of the Old Post Office ground lease.
- GSA intends to announce the cancellation of the land exchange/construction of a new U.S. Department of Labor headquarters in Washington, DC.



## DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

**TO:** White House Cabinet Affairs Communications  
**FROM:** GSA Communications Team  
**DATE:** March 27, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** Communications Update

**Inquiries**

Outlet	Inquiry	Date	Status
FedNewsRadio	Interview Request: Dave Harrity	3/7	Open
NASCIO	Interview request w/Eric Mill	3/8	Open
Gov. Product News	Resources for buying off GSA schedules	3/9	Open
DCist	Cotton Annex Bid	3/13	Open
CIO Review Mag.	Tech Transformation Article	3/15	Open
Next Gov	Interview w/ Navin Vembar	3/17	Open
Gov Matters	Interview w/Dominic Sale	3/17	Open
GovLoop	DevOps in the Public Sector	3/23	Open
FedScoop	Interview Request – IT Modernization Summit	3/23	Open
Flight Global	2017 CSV Document	3/23	Open
FedNewsRadio	Panel Interview: Automatic Network Security	3/24	Open
New Yorker	OPO Decision	3/27	Open
Buzzfeed	WH Office of American Innovation/18F	3/27	Open
Politico	WH Office of American Innovation/18F	3/27	Open
FCW	WH Office of American Innovation/Category Mgt.	3/27	Open
CIO Magazine	Requesting contributor on Big Data Article	3/27	Open

**Top Stories**

- [Donald Trump's new Washington hotel 'does not pose conflict of interest' \(Independent\)](#)
- [GSA: Trump DC hotel not in violation of government lease \(PBS Newshour\)](#)
- [GSA rules Trump isn't violating his hotel lease because he promises to not spend the profits yet \(Daily Kos\)](#)
- [GSA issues decision on Trump DC hotel, presidency conflict \(FedTimes\)](#)
- [GSA to Trump DC Hotel: You're good to go \(The Real Deal\)](#)

- [GSA Now Says Trump Is In 'Full Compliance' With Old Post Office Lease \(DCist\)](#)
- [Federal Agency Says Trump's DC Hotel Lease Is In 'Full Compliance' \(Newsy\)](#)
- [Real Estate: New FBI headquarters faces prospect of indefinite delay \(The Baltimore Sun\)](#)
- [Real Estate: The Surprising Second Life Of America's Asylums \(Co.Design\)](#)
- [IT/Technology: ALEXA, CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT GSA'S VIRTUAL ASSISTANT PILOT? \(NextGov\)](#)
- [Acquisition: CDM program to get facelift to fix problems with initial \\$6B contract \(FedNewsRadio\)](#)

#### **Press Release Activity**

- N/A

#### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- GSA has received several inquiries regarding the overlap between the Office of American Innovation and 18F. Specifically, we are being asked how the two offices will coordinate with one another.

For Immediate Release: March 7, 2017

## Top Democrats Request IG Investigation of GSA Handling of Trump's D.C. Hotel Lease

*GSA ignored requests for documents related to the apparent breach of the lease*  
*Washington, D.C.* -- Today, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Hank Johnson (D-GA) sent a letter to the Inspector General of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Carol Ochoa requesting an immediate investigation into the management and administration of the Old Post Office lease agreement with the Trump Organization. The Trump International Hotel opened in the Old Post Office building in October 2016.

**“Given GSA’s repeated refusal to respond to our requests to provide documents and substantive answers on this matter, we are increasingly concerned that the agency is not properly carrying out its mission. We request that you review the management and administration of the OPO lease agreement since President Trump’s election, including identifying any breach of the lease agreement or associated conflicts of interest, and describing the actions that the Administrator must take to eliminate any breach of the lease, potential conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest,”** the Members wrote.

Since Election Day, Democrats on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure have sent a total of three letters to GSA requesting critical information regarding the apparent breach of the lease given that President Trump is now both the landlord and the tenant of the Old Post Office lease agreement. The Agency has either ignored or sent nonresponsive replies to each letter. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has jurisdiction over the GSA Public Building Service, which controls the Old Post Office building.

DeFazio and Johnson also voiced concern that President Trump will soon appoint the Administrator of the General Services Administration, who will have the power to change the lease without Congressional notification or oversight.

The letter explains, **“The GSA Administrator is fully empowered to change the financial terms of the lease including the base rent, the percentage of profits paid to the Federal Government, and the rate of return allowed in the event of a sale. Moreover, the Administrator can make significant changes to the terms of the lease without any Congressional oversight or public scrutiny. To date, GSA has already executed five amendments to the lease since 2013. Because President Trump failed to transfer or eliminate his controlling interest in the property prior to his inauguration, he is now able to negotiate new and favorable financial terms with the Administrator he appoints. Left unchecked, this arrangement is fraught with the possibility that President Trump and his children will enrich themselves at taxpayers’ expense.”**

The full letter is below.

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Carol F. Ochoa  
Inspector General  
U.S. General Services Administration  
1800 F Street, NW  
Room 5340  
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Inspector General Ochoa:

We write to express our serious concerns regarding how the General Services Administration (GSA) is addressing the management and administration of the Old Post Office (OPO) lease agreement with the Trump Old Post Office LLC in light of the election and inauguration of Mr. Donald J. Trump as President of the United States.

President Trump and his family personally benefit from the lease agreement. For the past three months, we have asked GSA to resolve President Donald Trump's apparent breach of the OPO lease agreement and the significant conflicts of interest associated with the agreement given President Trump's election. GSA has not addressed these breach and conflict-of-interest issues and has been unwilling to respond substantively to our requests for information regarding the lease agreement. Given GSA's unwillingness to provide answers to basic questions, we are increasingly concerned that the agency is not properly carrying out its mission.

**We strongly urge you to investigate and report on GSA's management and administration of the OPO lease agreement since President Trump's election, including identifying any breach of the lease agreement or associated conflicts of interest, and describing the actions that the Administrator must take to eliminate any breach of the lease, conflict of interest, or appearance of a conflict of interest.**

On January 20, 2017, President Trump assumed the unprecedented position as both landlord and tenant of the OPO lease agreement for the Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC. Under the lease agreement, President Trump and three of his adult children, Ivanka Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and Eric Trump, control the management and maintenance of the property and hold a significant financial interest in the Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC. For the first

time in U.S. history, a sitting President operates and profits from a private business in a taxpayer-owned Federal building.

President Trump will soon appoint the Administrator of General Services, who serves at the pleasure of the President. The Administrator is responsible for administering and managing a lease where the President is the lessee and is its primary financial beneficiary. Further complicating this matter is that President Trump named his three adult children, Ivanka Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and Eric Trump to the Presidential Transition Team Executive Committee and they had the opportunity to engage in the process for selecting the Acting Administrator of General Services as well as a permanent Administrator. Within hours of the inauguration, the President replaced the initial Acting Administrator of GSA with a new Acting Administrator.

Regardless of the application of any criminal statute, this situation adds to the irreconcilable conflicts of interest of the lease agreement with the Trump Old Post Office LLC. Several lease terms require the Administrator to exercise judgement in both the execution of the lease and the use of remedies to cure any violations of the lease agreement. Because the President controls the Administrator exercising judgement on these terms, and because his daughter and son-in-law wield historically outsized power in his administration, the potential conflicts of interest are exacerbated.

The lease agreement explicitly prohibits any elected official of the U.S. Government from serving as a lessee or from obtaining any benefit that may arise from the lease. Section 37.19 of the lease states:

No member or delegate to Congress, or *elected official of the Government of the United States* or the Government of the District of Columbia, shall be admitted to any share or part of this Lease, *or to any benefit that may arise therefrom*; <sup>[1]</sup>

Mr. Trump became “an elected official of the Government of the United States” when he became President on January 20, 2017. Moreover, he is the primary beneficiary of the lease. Although it appears President Trump may have recently transferred his ownership interest to a revocable trust, the “purpose of the trust is to hold assets for the exclusive benefit of Donald J. Trump” and he may revoke the trust at any time. <sup>[2]</sup> As a result, he continues to derive a financial benefit from the lease, thereby violating its specific terms.

In addition, the subjective terms of this approximately 200-page lease agreement are numerous and significant and include determining the standard to which the hotel is maintained, how much is spent on maintenance and repair of this historic building, the businesses that are allowed to

operate in the hotel, and remedies for any dispute that arises from the management of the Trump International Hotel, Washington, DC.

The GSA Administrator is fully empowered to change the financial terms of the lease including the base rent, the percentage of profits paid to the Federal Government, and the rate of return allowed in the event of a sale. Moreover, the Administrator can make significant changes to the terms of the lease without any Congressional oversight or public scrutiny. To date, GSA has already executed five amendments to the lease since 2013.

Because President Trump failed to transfer or eliminate his controlling interest in the property prior to his inauguration, he is now able to negotiate new and favorable financial terms with the Administrator he appoints. Left unchecked, this arrangement is fraught with the possibility that President Trump and his children will enrich themselves at taxpayers' expense. This is simply untenable.

Given the conflict-of-interest issues raised by President Trump's election, we have repeatedly asked GSA about the management and administration of this lease. On each occasion, GSA's response has been wholly inadequate.

On December 14, 2016, we requested that GSA provide a list of unleased space within the hotel, unredacted lease documents, monthly reports submitted to the agency, and any legal memoranda regarding potential conflicts of interest. GSA provided **no** response.

On January 23, 2017, we requested information regarding the steps that GSA has taken or plans to take to address President Trump's apparent breach of the lease agreement; monthly reports submitted to the agency; the steps that GSA has taken or plans to take to address liens against the Trump International Hotel; and any correspondence related to the aforementioned items. GSA provided **no** substantive response.

Given GSA's repeated refusal to respond to our requests to provide documents and substantive answers on this matter, we are increasingly concerned that the agency is not properly carrying out its mission. We request that you review the management and administration of the OPO lease agreement since President Trump's election, including identifying any breach of the lease agreement or associated conflicts of interest, and describing the actions that the Administrator must take to eliminate any breach of the lease, potential conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest. In this review, we ask that you specifically assess the following:

1. Has GSA fully and appropriately evaluated the apparent violation of section 37.19 of the lease agreement? Is GSA's conclusion consistent with Federal contracting rules prohibiting conflicts of interest?

2. Has GSA calculated the cost to terminate the lease agreement with the Trump Old Post Office LLC? If so, how much is that cost?
3. What remedies is GSA seeking to cure the breach of this lease term? Has the Administrator considered terminating the lease and transferring it to a different hotelier as a remedy to eliminate any conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict of interest? If not, why not?
4. To date, GSA has executed five amendments to the original lease agreement. Did GSA receive fair value in exchange for making those changes to the lease agreement? Does GSA have procedures in place to ensure it always receives fair value in exchange for lease amendments?
5. Has GSA taken any action to shield the contracting officer and the Old Post Office Building project management team from undue influence?
6. How will GSA create a transparent process for administering and managing the lease?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

PETER DeFAZIO

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management

HANK JOHNSON

Ranking Member

cc: Mr. Timothy Horne

Acting Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration